

# Final Report

## Bar Harbor Charter Commission

### ~ Question #2 ~

#### **CHARTER AMENDMENT – Reducing Number of Councilors from 7 to 5**

Shall the Town of Bar Harbor approve the charter amendment reprinted below?

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#### **ARTICLE III, The Town Council**

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##### **§ C-7. Composition, eligibility, election and terms.**

- A. Composition. There shall be a Town Council of ~~seven~~ five members elected by the qualified voters of the Town in accordance with Article VIII.

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- C. Elections and terms. Each member shall be elected for a term of three years; with the seats to be staggered such that no more than two Councilors are elected to fill expired terms in any one year; provided, however, that at the first 2011 annual election after the adoption of this Charter three two Councilors Councilmen shall be elected, at the 2012 annual election one Councilor shall be elected, and at the 2013 annual election two Councilors shall be elected. ~~the four incumbent Councilmen presently serving pursuant to the current Charter of the Town of Bar Harbor with more than one year to serve shall be sworn as Councilmen and continue to serve as Councilmen for the remainder of their terms or until their successors are elected and qualified and shall have all the powers, duties and responsibilities of Councilmen as set forth by this Charter.~~

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#### **ARTICLE XI, Transitional Provisions**

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##### **C-57. Incumbent Council.**

As of the effective date of this Charter the ~~five seven Councilmen Councilors~~ incumbent as of said effective date shall continue as ~~interim Councilmen Councilors~~ under this Charter until the next regular municipal election ~~expiration of their respective terms. at which time Councilmen~~ Thereafter, Councilors will be elected as provided for by § C-7C. ~~During said interim period three shall be considered a majority of the Council.~~

**Effective Date**

This Charter modification shall be in full effect for all purposes on and after the first day of the next succeeding municipal year after adoption.

*[End of Charter Amendment]*

***Explanation:***

*If this ballot question passes, the number of Town Council members will be reduced from 7 to 5.*

***Recommendation:***

*The nine member Charter Commission recommends rejection, by a vote of 5 to 4. While the Charter Commission recommended rejection of this article, the vote was sufficiently close (5/4) that the Commissioners voted unanimously to submit the question to the voters.*